

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Alabama Department of Public Safety

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### Troopers Issue Safety Tips for Motorists

MONTGOMERY — Alabama state troopers offer the following safety tips for motorists traveling alone, at night or for anyone who finds themselves ill at ease or unsure whether they are being stopped by an authorized law enforcement official.

- Acknowledge the officer by activating hazard lights and slow to a reasonable speed.
- Proceed to an area of safety, such as a lighted service station or otherwise populated area.
- Be aware that law enforcement vehicles, both marked and unmarked, use blue lights or a combination of blue lights with red or white lights, in signaling a vehicle to stop.
- If the individual making the stop is not wearing a uniform, ask to see badge and identification.
- If in doubt about the officer, call 911 or \*HP (\*47) to validate the stop with local authorities.
- Make mental notes during the stop, including a description of vehicle, description of person(s) making the stop, any identifying insignia, and any ensuing conversation.

Col. Mike Coppage, director of the Alabama Department of Public Safety, said troopers and other law enforcement officers are aware of the concerns motorists may have about being stopped by an individual who may be posing as a law enforcement official.

“We are aware that motorists, particularly those traveling alone and at night, need to be assured of the legitimacy of the contact when they’re stopped by the side of the road,” he said. “Motorists can help protect themselves from bogus law enforcement stops by following these simple tips, and they should understand that any legitimate law enforcement officer is prepared to confirm his or her identity.”

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